

MIDNIGHT SET FOR TEUTON DECREE

GERMANNOTE
IS DISCUSSED
WITH CABINET

President and Members Con- sidering Arguments in Berlin Document.

ANNOUNCE ATTITUDE

Stand to Be Taken by United States Made Known After Meeting.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 29.—The latest formal note from Germany regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare was before President Wilson and his cabinet for consideration today.

The note reiterates assurances given in the Lusitania case, declares that those assurances have not been modified by the announced intention to treat armed merchant ships of the enemy as auxiliary cruisers after midnight tonight, and attempts to justify the new policy by presenting evidence and assertions designed to prove that Great Britain has instructed her merchantment to use their armament for attack in violation of assurances given the United States.

To Announce Stand.

Official indication of what attitude the United States may take regarding the note was expected to follow the cabinet meeting.

However, what is considered by Secretary Lansing as the all-important element in the situation, is a copy of the so-called British instructions to shipmasters to hunt for submarines, which have not arrived from Berlin, where they were handed to Ambassador Gerard. Pending their receipt and a subsequent decision regarding the attitude of the United States, the state department is prepared to consider any overt act committed by the Teutonic submarine commanders in the light of the facts. The department, it was said, would not act on the case of an American who sustained injuries aboard a vessel which it could be definitely established carried guns for offensive purposes.

British Deny Allegations.

It was indicated in British diplomatic circles that the allegations of Germany would be flatly denied. It was said that British masters had not been instructed to hunt submarines, that they had been told to avoid the craft and that only in event of a submarine approaching without warning were the skippers authorized to use their guns.

The state department is understood to feel that the possibility of difficulties arising in the near future as a result of the new German and Austrian policy is more or less remote. Officials believe that commanders of the undersea boats will take particular care not to attack without warning armed merchant vessels on which there may be Americans.

Lansing Refutes Statement.

Secretary Lansing today issued this statement:

"In view of publication this morning of what purports to be the view of the state department on the communication received yesterday from the German ambassador, I wish to say that the contents of the communication have not been made public by me and that any statement as to the views of the state department on the communication are unauthorized.

"I have made no comment and ex-

DES MOINES RIVER
GORGED DYNAMITED

Oskaloosa, Iowa, Feb. 29.—Continued mild weather today strengthened the hope of engineers and city officials here that the worst of the flood had passed. The dynamiting late yesterday of the ice gorge which caused the flood relieved the situation and today no further damage was reported.

Railway engineers sent to the scene yesterday by Governor Clarke reported today that the odds were in favor of the situation solving itself without any further damage.

THREATENED KISS
BRINGS HIS ARREST

Waterloo, Iowa, Feb. 29.—J. V. Rhodes, local insurance man, is under arrest here on complaint of Mrs. William Bunce of La Porte City, Iowa. In her complaint Mrs. Bunce charges Rhodes with "assault with intent to kiss." Attorneys here say this is the first instance on record of such a charge.

Warning by
Wireless Is
Given Tanker

New York, Feb. 29.—Wireless warning that a German commerce raider, possibly accompanied by consorts, was attacking shipping in the Atlantic, were received by the Standard Oil tanker Communiapaw, which arrived here today from Algiers.

The first message was received Feb. 17 and was partly in code. It read: "Abmd calling caaw and reported being chased by a suspicious ship which she believes to be a German raider. Position wch and wmx. Course west."

The Communiapaw was some miles south of the Azores when this message was received. At noon a second message apparently from the same ship said: "Altered course to wpm and nna."

The third and most significant message was received about 8 o'clock that evening. Its text was: "German steamer is attacking shipping in the Atlantic and may be assisted by captured vessels which she armed. Description, 6,000 tons, speed, 15 knots, combination freight and passenger steamer. Carries two guns and is posing as neutral."

The Communiapaw was the center of sensational rumors last December when it was reported that she had been attacked and sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean. After some days during which Washington tried in vain to ascertain her whereabouts, she put into Algiers and her captain denied that any attack had been made.

EXPLOSION KILLS
TWO; INJURES 20

Several Hundred Pounds of Dynamite and Nitro-Glycerine Discharged in St. Louis Suburb.

St. Louis, Feb. 29.—An investigation was started at Maplewood, a suburb, today, to determine the cause of the explosion yesterday of several hundred pounds of dynamite and nitro-glycerine in which two women were killed, 20 persons more or less seriously injured and 50 others cut and bruised. The explosion occurred in the powder house of a construction company which is building a sewer in Maplewood. The property loss was estimated today at \$200,000.

Eleven houses were destroyed and the windows in practically every house within a radius of a mile were shattered.

KILLS ESTRANGED
WIFE AND HIMSELF

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 29.—Homer Kelly, aged 30, a teamster, shot and killed his wife here today by firing five shots from a revolver into her body. With the sixth shot he ended his own life.

The couple had been separated.

Latest Bulletins

London, Feb. 29.—A Central News dispatch from Petrograd says the Turks are hastily evacuating Trebizond and the neighboring towns on the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus region.

Marshfield, Ore., Feb. 29.—The steamer Field, from San Francisco to Bangdon, struck today on the rocks of the south jetty on Bangdon bar. Coast guards took off the passengers. The steamer will probably go to pieces.

New York, Feb. 29.—Securities worth \$25,000 were obtained by the robbers who rifled mail pouches on a postoffice automobile truck last Saturday on a ferry boat between Jersey City and New York. The banking firm of Potter, Choate & Prentiss, to whom the securities were being shipped, said the transfer of the securities had been stopped in order to prevent them being negotiated.

Washington, Feb. 29.—Consul General Skinner at London reported today to the state department that only one American, Ralph B. Foster, of Topeka, Kan., was aboard the liner Maloja, sunk by a mine Sunday off Dover and that he was saved.

Taloga, Okla., Feb. 29.—The bodies of seven persons were found early this morning in the ruins of a farm house, which burned some time during last night, six miles northwest of here. The dead have been identified as M. Creed, the occupant of the house, his wife, three children and Creed's two brothers.

KAISER PUTS
SUB WARFARE
INTO EFFECT

Berlin Refuses to Postpone or Alter Stand Regarding Armed Ships.

EXPECTING BIG TOLL

Teutons Believe Campaign Will Open With Great Sinking of Vessels.

Washington, Feb. 29.—The Italian liners Giuseppe Verdi and San Gualmino at New York, with mounted guns aboard, were ordered cleared today on assurances of the Italian government that their armament was for defensive purposes only.

Berlin, Feb. 28, (4 p. m., via London, Feb. 29, 12:10 p. m.)—The Associated Press is informed by Germany's leading statesmen that the new rule of submarine warfare which was announced in the German memorandum regarding the future treatment of armed merchantment, will positively be put in effect at midnight of Tuesday, Feb. 29.

At that time the period of warning for neutrals, giving them opportunity to advise their nationals not to travel on armed merchantment, will expire.

For several days there has been more than a possibility that Germany at the last moment might make a proposal that she would discontinue practices of reprisal and sink no merchant ships—freighters or passenger lines—without first halting the vessel for examination and putting the crew in a place of safety as in the old style of naval war if the allies would remove armament from merchantmen. It was thought England might accept this proposal or that the United States and other neutrals would be convinced, if England refused, that she had no intention of discontinuing the use of armament for offensive purposes. This might possibly have given President Wilson proof that armament on merchantment was not used purely for defensive, and thus enable the president to reconcile the two conflicting viewpoints regarding the propriety of merchantment carrying armament and the impossibility of the United States altering the established law of nations.

Publication of President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone, however, apparently convinced Germany's leading statesmen that no assistance was to be expected from Washington in ending the present anomalous situation regarding rules of submarine warfare and that it was useless to make proposals, the only result of which would be to give England more time to replenish her stores while a discussion was in progress at Washington and London. At least two of the highest officials directly concerned appear to be now convinced that Washington has no desire to embarrass Great Britain in the conduct of the war, or to do anything which might permit Germany to use the submarine in warfare against commerce.

Expect Wholesale Sinking.

Newspapers and the German public generally are primed for a spectacular opening of the new submarine campaign. The reader of the average newspaper article or contribution to the papers by a naval expert might expect to find the columns of his newspaper on Thursday too small to contain a full account of the merchantment sunk by Germany's big fleet of submarines on the first day of the campaign. It may be doubted, however, whether the campaign will set in with such vigor, and it would be no surprise if some time passes without an incident of such a character as to force the United States to act on President Wilson's declarations.

Statesmen Hope for the Best.

Such, at least, appears to be the hope of the leading German statesmen. They have little expectation that President Wilson will change his attitude, even after the receipt of the justificatory evidence attached to the German memorandum in the form of appendices, which apparently were not contained in the American embassy's cablegram giving the text of the memorandum itself and is being forwarded by

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Confesses to Double Murder.

Bowling Green, Mo., Feb. 29.—Van Wilson, who was reported last night to have confessed to the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Snedeger on their farm 17 miles from here, was brought here today by the sheriff of Pike county. He surrendered to Sheriff Hawkins at Spencerburg yesterday. He refused to give a reason for the murder.

SEVENTY MEN
ARE TRAPPED
IN COAL MINE

Miners Had Just Entered the Shaft for Work When Explosion Occurred.

Kempston, W. Va., Feb. 29.—Seventy-one men were trapped by an explosion in the mine of the Davis Coal and Coke company near here today soon after they went to work.

Thirteen are known to be dead, nine are still missing and 47 have been brought safely from mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal and Coke company near here where an explosion occurred this morning. The missing men had penetrated far into the workings and rescuers who reached the surface at noon expressed the opinion these men had perished.

The mine, which is a shaft 427 feet deep, was not badly wrecked, according to mine officials. The explosion, it was stated, was probably caused by dust.

Scarcely had the men reached their working places when the explosion occurred. Those not directly in range of the blast hurried to the main entries and started for the foot of the shaft in which the cages were still operating. There they were met by rescue parties and quickly hoisted. Other rescuers made their way into the mine and soon located six bodies. Later other miners who had been unable to reach the main lines of communication were found and brought out. Four of them were badly hurt.

METHODISTS GET
POISON BANQUET
SCARE; MANY ILL

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Nearly fifty guests, all Methodist ministers and their wives became seriously ill after partaking of food which is alleged to have been poisoned at a banquet given by Methodist ministers in the Howard Street Methodist church here Feb. 22.

The first official report of the affair was made last night to the Methodist Ministers' association by Rev. Samuel Quickmire, pastor of the church. No report of the incident had been made to the police early today.

The report of Dr. Quickmire resembled in many respects the Chicago banquet given in honor of Archbishop George W. Mundelein of the Catholic church recently at which many of the guests were poisoned.

Most of those who became ill did not feel distressed until after they had reached their homes, although two or three, feeling slightly ill, were forced to leave the banquet hall before the termination of the meal and summon medical aid.

According to Dr. Quickmire, no analysis was made of the food supposed to be poisoned and none of the sufferers was positive which course had caused his or her illness. Most of the victims, he said, were of the opinion that the ice cream contained poison.

THE WAR
TODAY

In the Champagne district, by a surprise attack, the Germans entered French advanced positions over a front of nearly a mile, capturing a thousand prisoners.

The Germans also claim to have driven the French from the Meuse peninsula.

What may mean a renewal of the German drive on Verdun, in the terrific force which marked the initial attack, is contained in the announcement from Paris today that the bombardment to the north of the fortress is assuming greater intensity.

The heaviest infantry fighting of last night seems to have been in the Woerwe district, south of the fortress, where the Germans attacked and captured the village of Manheulles. The French declare that in a counter attack they attained the western boundary of the village, which they now hold.

The German attack, while still continuing, has apparently less driving power, while the pressure is being shifted from point to point.

Meanwhile the French are not idle and are delivering vigorous counter strokes. When attacked, their lines in the stronger positions they now occupy are holding firmer.

Estimates of the number of Germans in the great battles are considerably larger than the 300,000 men believed to have been in the initial operations. Some authorities now declare there are as many as 750,000 troops fighting on the German side.

On the Russian front fighting is reported from Riga to Galicia, although no important gains have been made by either side.

The Russians are pursuing the Turks who evacuated Erzerum, and the British inflicted heavy loss on the Turks on the Tigris river. The British also killed many tribesmen in the fighting in western Egypt.

The Austrians claim to have repulsed an Italian attack with heavy losses near Monte San Michele.

Germany has not modified her notice that all armed merchantmen will be treated as warships, beginning tonight at midnight.

Casualties of the British forces in the various fighting areas published during February totaled 739 officers and 17,847 men.

ESCAPES TO START
DIAZ REVOLUTION

Washington, Feb. 29.—Reports today to the department of justice said General Felix Diaz, who hopes to start a new revolution in Mexico, left the United States on Feb. 18 on a ship bound from Tampa, Fla., to Tierra in the state of Vera Cruz.

This advice came from an agent of the bureau of investigation and officials were inclined to give it credence. No details as to the ship on which Diaz sailed were received.

New Orleans, Feb. 29.—Diaz adherents said today they had advised that Felix Diaz landed in the state of Vera Cruz last week and was joined there by several thousand troops. Diaz, it was said, intended marching to his home state of Oaxaca to join 10,000 troops to begin his campaign against Villa and Carranza. Zapata troops, it was said, would join the Diaz army. Several million dollars was declared to have been provided to finance the movement.

GREAT DRIVE
UPON VERDUN
NOW INTENSE

Berlin Claims and Paris Admits Progress for the German Forces.

HAND TO HAND FIGHT

Near Douaumont the French Succeeded in Repulsing Enemy at Close Range.

Berlin, Feb. 29 (via London, 3:20 p. m.)—Progress for the Germans in their drive towards Verdun in the Woerwe district was announced by the war office today. The German troops have passed Dieppe, Abaucourt and Blanche, and also have taken Manheulles and Champton.

The war office also announced that a small armored work northwest of Douaumont has been stormed by the Germans.

The official announcement gives the total number of unwounded prisoners taken as 16,575. There have been captured also 79 cannon and 86 machine guns.

At the Forester's house at Thiverville a French position was taken. A large number of prisoners remain in German hands.

The situation is unchanged in the eastern and Balkan zones.

French Admit Losses.

Paris, Feb. 29 (2:35 p. m.)—Bombardment north of Verdun continues with greater intensity. East of the Meuse last night there was a resumption of violent local attacks. Near the village of Douaumont the fighting came to a hand-to-hand encounter and the Germans were repulsed by French troops.

Paris, Feb. 29.—After intense artillery fire German forces captured the village of Manheulles, but a counter attack brought the French to the western boundary of this location. They now hold Manheulles under their fire.

In Lorraine the Germans occupied small sections of French trenches, but they were shortly driven out from these positions.

There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front.

SUFFRAGIST WILL
NOT HAVE ALIMONY

Chicago, Feb. 29.—Mrs. Crystal Eastman Benedict, suffragist, pacifist, business woman, sister of Max Eastman, editor of "The Masses," and wife of Wallace Benedict, an electrical engineer, is suing for divorce. She cites actions of Benedict and an unknown woman as cause for the suit. She does not ask for alimony, saying women do not have to be supported by men.

Miss Eastman, as Mrs. Benedict prefers to call herself, was a member of the Henry Ford peace expedition and is now campaigning for pacifism. She has degrees from Vassar, Columbia and New York University.

SLIGHT INCREASE
IS ALLOWED ROADS

Washington, Feb. 29.—The interstate commerce commission today modified its order in the so-called anthracite coal case so as to allow the hard coal roads slight increases in rates on prepared sizes on pea and smaller sizes.

The order affects rates on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, Lehigh Valley, Erie, and Central of New Jersey and Delaware and Hudson railroads. The increases generally are a few cents a ton. The new rates apply on traffic from the collieries on these lines to Paterson, Newark, Bound Brook, Elizabeth and other points in New Jersey, and to Syracuse, Utica, Albany, Troy and other points in New York.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.

Resumed debate on Shields water power bill.

Witnesses testified on Louis D. Brandeis' nomination to the supreme court before judiciary subcommittee.

Military committee continued work on the army reorganization bill.

HOUSE.

Began debate on legislative appropriation bill.

Naval and military committees continued work on national defense program.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and vicinity.

Probably snow tonight and Wednesday, not much change in temperature with the lowest tonight about 15 degrees.

Temperature at 7 a. m. 16. Highest yesterday 27, lowest last night 16.

Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 8 miles per hour.

Precipitation none.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 88, at 7 a. m. 79, at 1 p. m. today 44.

Stage of water 10.7, a fall of .1 in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERLER, Local Forecaster.